

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03465 161001Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07

PA-01 PRS-01 EB-07 H-02 /054 W

----- 052091

O R 160846Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 94

INFO AMEMBJSSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3465

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO MAYAGUEZ

1. ROK HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED US HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT. PRESS MAY 15 AND 16 DEVOTED MAJOR ATTENTION TO SUBJECT AND RELATED STORIES, IN COVERAGE CONVEYING SENSE OF RELIEF THAT US IN WAKE OF VIETNAM HAD TAKEN FOREFUL STEPS AGAINST UNLAWFUL COMMUNIST ACTION.

2. IN MOST SUCCINCT OF SEVERAL NEARLY UNIFORM EDITORIALS, GOVERNMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE KOREA HERALD SAID THAT "THE RESOLUTE US RESPONSE TO THE KHMER ROUGE PIRACY.....BEARS EXTRAORDINARY SIGNIFICANCE, AS THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY FOLLOW THE INDOCHINA DEBACLE." HEARALD NOTED THAT US TRIED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS FIRST THEN "RELUCTANTLY"USED MINIMUM POSSIBLE FORCE TO ACHIEVE ITS SOLE OBJECTIVE--RETURN OF VESSEL AND CREW. "THE US, HOWEVER, HAS ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASSET TO GAIN FROM THE SMALL OPERATION--THE DECISIVE COUNTER-ACTION WILL WEIGH HEAVILY IN RETURNING TRUST AND STRENGTH TO THE US ALLIANCE WITH ASIAN NATIONS...."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03465 161001Z

3. HERALD WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT "AS IS THE CASE

WITH COMMUNISTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE LITTLE REGARD FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN FORCE." LIKE MANY OTHER PAPERS, HERALD THEN MADE COMPARISON WITH PUEBLO INCIDENT, WHICH "STILL HOUNTS OUR MEMORY.....THE ABSENCE OF A DRASTIC STEP HELPED ONLY TO FEED THE BRAZEN AUDACITY OF THE NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS." POST-PUEBLO DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA AND INDOCHINA ADDED TO NECESSITY OF BUTTRESSING US IN ITS DEALINGS WITH COMMUNISTS, IN HERALD'S VIEW, AND GIVEN RECENT ENCOURAGEMENT TO KIM IL-SUNG AND OTHER AGGRESSIVE FORCES, "ANY FURTHER IRRESOLUTE OR AMBIGUOUS ANSWER TO THEIR CHALLENGE WOULD ONLY BE SELF-DESTRUCTIVE." HERALD DECLARED THAT US RECOVERY OF MAYAGUEZ HAS PROVEN RECENT US ASSURANCES TO ROK. "US DETERMINATION AND READINESS FOR SUCH ACTION WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO ANY FURTHER MISCALCULATION ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNISTS."

4. HERALD'S VIEW IS SHARED BY OTHER MAJOR EDITORIALS. COMMENTING ADDITIONALLY ON CONGRESSIONAL ROLE, TONGA ILBO SAID "THE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S STRONG ACTION WAS HELPFUL FOR RETURN OF SEIZED MAYAGUEZ BUT FURTHER SUPRA-PARTISAN COOPERATION IS URGED TO HELP ADMINISTRATION CARRY OUT FOREIGN POLICY SMOOTHLY."

5. IN PRIVATE CONTACTS, KOREANS HAVE UNANIMOUSLY APPLAUDED HANDLING OF MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, INDICATING THEY SEE IT AS SHOT IN ARM TO US IMAGE IN ASIA.
SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SHIP DETENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL03465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0467
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750544/aaaabnvz.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK REACTION TO MAYAGUEZ
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006